

ACTIVIST NEWS

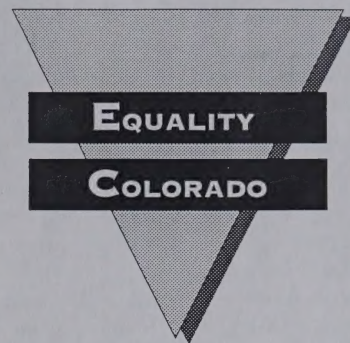
A PUBLICATION OF EQUALITY COLORADO

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OCTOBER 1998

STRETCH RUN BEFORE ELECTIONS

Now that we've registered bunches of people to vote, there are still some key components to electing fair-minded candidates to office — namely voter education and mobilization. In addition, there are some campaigns working on key ballot questions, and they need your help to ensure victory. If you have even a couple of hours to spare, you can make a difference. Help candidates walk their precincts. Do literature drops with candidates, your political party, or issue campaigns. Set up a "phone bank" night with your friends to call GLBT and allied voters, or join one that Equality Colorado is setting up. Educate yourself and your friends about where candidates stand on GLBT issues (contact Equality for extra voter guides) and what the ballot questions really mean.

ACTION!

► To help out, contact your local political party or issue campaign — or contact Joanna Dueñas, Equality Colorado's elections organizer. You can reach her at jduenas@eudoramail.com or by calling Equality and dialing ext. 4.

How YOU Can Help Ft. Collins Human Rights

Ft. Collins will become the sixth city in Colorado to include sexual orientation in its local human rights ordinance — if Ordinances 21 & 22 pass there this November. Of course, the radical right is out in force to make sure that doesn't happen. Using fear-based rhetoric and misinformation reminiscent of Amendment 2, they hope to override the city council's unanimous vote in favor of both ordinances.

If you can make it to Ft. Collins any time before the elections, they can use your help! **Phone banking** is every Sun/Mon/Tue/Wed/Thur evening, from 6-9. **Literature drops** are every Sat/Sun from 12-4pm. For those of you in the Metro Denver area, there will be a caravan going to Ft. Collins on Sunday, Oct. 18. And of course, any monetary donations you can make to Ft. Collins Citizens for Human Rights are welcome!

ACTION!

► Call Chris Morris, campaign director, at (970) 221-3247 or email FCCHR@choice-city.com if you are able to help!
► Contact The Center in Denver for info on the caravan. (303) 831-6268.
► Send donations payable to FCCHR, 305 W. Magnolia #123, Ft. Collins, CO 80521. Visit the website at www.choice-city.com

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Equality Colorado's Anti-Violence Project contributed to the newly released 1998 Annual Report of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence, which indicates that reporting of GLBT partner abuse increased 41% in 1997. The significant increase in numbers probably reflects the success of outreach and education programs, rather than representing any real increase in the amount of partner abuse.

The GLBT community is still widely underserved in terms of services according to the report. Lesbian and bisexual women are frequently mainstreamed into programs and shelters designed primarily for heterosexual women, without any real consideration of whether these services are safe or appropriate for lesbians. Services for gay and bisexual men are virtually non-existent. There is not a single shelter for men — gay, bisexual, trans, or straight — anywhere in Colorado. The gender segregation of services such as support groups and shelters can present a special problem for trans people, because their gender identification or gender expression may not fit within the strict guidelines for "men" or "women."

ACTION!

► To be successful, the Anti-Violence Project needs volunteers and advocates, both in the Denver metro area and throughout the state. The next training for crisis line advocates will be in early December, 1998. Contact Dede at Equality Colorado to find out how you can get involved.

Email ecdede@aol.com. or call (303) 839-5540 x2.

CA Next Target of Anti-Marriage Forces?

Frontiers Newsmagazine

On Sept. 21, state Sen. Pete Knight, (R-Palmdale), turned in 675,000 signatures to place an anti-gay-marriage initiative on the primary election ballot in March 2000.

The signatures must still be verified by the secretary of state and at least 433,269 must be valid to put the measure on the ballot. Although many signatures were gathered through the Internet and therefore may be more open to questioning, Knight has provided himself a large margin of error — more than 140,000 extra signatures.

"They're being turned in to county registrars of voters all over the state," said Matthew Cunningham, a member of Knight's group, Californians for Defense of Marriage.

The initiative states: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

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## March for Immigration Day of Action

*From Colorado Progressive Coalition*

Mark your calendar NOW to join CPC and other members of the Rights for All People immigrant rights coalition at the Denver event of the NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST IMMIGRATION RAIDS.

**WHAT:** March and Rally for the Nation Day of Action Against Immigration Raids

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 14

\* March will assemble at 3:30pm at the Federal Building (19th & Stout). It will then march through downtown, stopping at other important target sites (the National Labor Relations Board, Congresswoman DeGette's office, etc.).

\* At 4:30pm, the march will end up outside of 303 W. Colfax Ave., where the City of Denver Office of Human Rights and Community Relations is, and there will be a press conference featuring several prominent members of the community. If you can only join the action for the press event at 4:30pm, that's great too!

Questions? Call Soyun at CPC at (303) 866.0908 or Eddie Canales at SEIU Local 105 at (303) 698.7963. Also, the action now has endorsements from 27 community and labor organizations supporting this Day of Action, if your group would like to endorse, call CPC at (303) 866.0908.

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New Boulder Pride ONLINE Site

Following on the heels of the recent Boulder Pride Town Meeting, Boulder Pride ONLINE has been re-designed to reflect the new "year-round" status of the organization.

Visitors will be able to access Community News, an Events Calendar, info. on other Community Resources and Links to other online sites, among other features.

Point your browser to: www.boulderpride.org. (Note: That's ".org" NOT ".com").

For more information, email info@boulderpride.org. You can also call the Boulder GLBTQ Hotline at (303) 939-8588.

Colorado Springs Theatre Festival

October 7-24: Upstart Performing Ensemble presents the Third Annual Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival at the Smokebrush Center for Arts and Theater, 235 South Nevada Avenue. "Norman Is That You?," a comedy by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick, is presented on October 7th through 10th. "The Killing of Sister George," a serious comedy by Frank Marcus, will be presented on October 14th through 17th. And, finally, "Quilt," a musical drama, is presented on October 21st through 24th. Tickets are available at the Smokebrush box office, (719) 444-0884. The evening shows are at 8 pm., and there is an additional Saturday matinee at 2 pm. All tickets are \$10, and a ticket to all three plays is \$25. The three Saturday matinees are benefits for, respectively, the Inside/Out youth Group, the Community Center, and the Moms group (for mothers with children with AIDS/HIV) and the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church building fund. Tickets for the benefit performances must be purchased from Upstart, rather than Smokebrush, and you may do so by purchasing tickets at the door or calling (719) 636-5089 to reserve a ticket

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## Anti-Family Measures Introduced

**In Congress:** Rep. Steve Largent (R-OK) introduced a measure to ban adoption in Washington, DC for unmarried couples, including gay and lesbian couples. The measure passed the House on a 227-192 vote. Single people are still able to adopt, so while both parties of an unmarried couple would obviously still serve as parents to the child, the second parent would have no legal responsibility or protections for the child, including financial. In unfortunate circumstances, such as a break up or the death of a legal parent, the non-legal parent would have no legal responsibility to care for the child. As of June 22, 1998, there were 3,600 children in the D.C. foster care system waiting to be adopted.... **In Arkansas:** A state board is attempting to bar gay and lesbian people from being foster parents. The Child Welfare Agency Review Board did, however, drop a provision banning singles from foster care. The board's lawyer said banning singles is clearly against state law. The board then pushed ahead with plans to restrict foster care placements in homes of gay and lesbian adults.... **In Texas:** Legislation being drafted by state Rep. Warren Chisum (R-Pampa), would prohibit children from being placed in the homes of gay or lesbian couples for adoption or foster care in Texas. "It will be a hot issue, but clearly will be in the best interest of the child," Chisum said of his proposal. He said research shows that the best situation for a child is in a family with a father and mother. Two states, Florida and New Hampshire, have passed laws that expressly prohibit adoptions by gay and lesbian people. The proposed legislation, which is being drafted for consideration by the legislature next year, would prohibit the adoption of children or their placement in foster care if the state's Department of Protective and Regulatory Services determines that any offense under the Texas Penal Code (including sodomy) or drug offense under the Texas Health and Safety Code is occurring or reasonably likely to occur.